



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **School Committee Minutes 04/13/2010**

Approved by the Arlington School Committee June 8, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2010**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Present:**

**Mr. Joseph Curro Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks Secretary,  
Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curran, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, and Mr. Judson Pierce**

**Dr. Kathleen Bodie Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer Interim Assistant Superintendent,  
Ms. Diane Johnson Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Ms. Erin MacDonald and  
Miles Powell Student Representatives, and Karen Fitzgerald Administrative Assistant**

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:00 and returned at 8:08 p.m.  
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 8:20 and returned at 8:24 p.m.  
Mr. Ryder exited the meeting at 9:58 p.m.  
Student reps exited the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

*Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe and Mr. Judson Pierce to their first School Committee Meeting.*

***Reflection, Remembrance, and Recognition***

*Mr. Curro reflections were on an historical figure Dr. Richard Feynman and recognized the Brackett School Artwork.*

***Public Participation***

- *Mr. Jose Zayes, Metco parent advocated for keeping the Metco Program.*
- *Ms. Nicole Libresco supports the ACE and the drama program as does her son Jack a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at the Ottoson Middle School.*
- *Mr. Brendan Lynch supports the Metco program in Arlington.*
- *Mr. Andre Christmas, former Metco student, currently a Certified Public Account supports the Metco program and thanked Dr. Flaherty for all her support while he as a student in Arlington.*
- *Ms. Shannon Hirsh and Brianna Gerrars, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Ottoson Middle School support the drama program.*
- *Mr. David Moore and Ms. Nancy Muise acknowledge two art students: Autumn Chase-Dempsey and Lillian Rothman who received the 2010 Alan McClennen Community Arts Award.*
- *Ms. Anne Thompson suggested the School Committee to tap into the town reserve funds to support the budget.*
- *Ms. Maddie Bransford and Megan Hennessey students of Ottoson Middle School support the Arts.*
- *Ms. Amy Speare cautioned the committee on giving up the Crosby and Parmenter Schools.*
- *Ms. Diana and Lisa Williams students of Arlington Public Schools support the drama program at the Ottoson Middle School.*

- Ms. Anna Barr, senior supports ACE and drama at the Arlington Public Schools.
- Ms. Sarah Kiernan and Ms. Zoe Sacks, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students support the drama program.
- Mr. Mat Dolan would like additional information on the Crosby and Parmenter Schools.
- Ms. Kate Cubeta former Peirce parent supports ACE, drama, Metco, library and the arts programs in Arlington Public Schools.
- Mr. Josh Davis suggested to the School Committee that we reconsider the timing of the Crosby and Parmenter sale.
- Ms. Katie Ray, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student supports the drama program.
- Ms. Karen Coleman, parent supports the arts, music and Metco programs and look into corporation sponsorship.
- Ms. Charese, supports the Metco program and wants her children to attend Arlington Public Schools.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Curro composed a Chairman's Report and Leadership Goals for the members of the Arlington School Committee. Mr. Curro is proposing several changes to our subcommittee structure as follows.

- Consolidation of District Accountability and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment into a single standing subcommittee. ~Until this change is formally enacted, I am appointing identical leadership and membership to both subcommittees and encouraging that their meetings be posted as joint meetings.
- Creation of a temporary Executive Subcommittee, consisting of the three officers. ~This subcommittee would be charged with meeting from time to time to discuss general School Committee governance issues. Future chairs might consider reauthorizing such a subcommittee if it is found to be useful.
- Creation of a temporary Legal Services Review Subcommittee. ~This subcommittee would be charged with reviewing all sources of legal advice received by the School Committee and making specific recommendations where appropriate for adoption by the full committee. ~Among issues to be examined would be: the potential renewal of the retainer agreement for legal representation and/or the solicitation of alternate proposals; recommendations around the Town Government Reorganization Committee's work in this regard; and diversification of counsel used for special education disputes.

<b><u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES</u></b>	
<b>Budget</b>	L. Heigham (Chair), J. Thielman, K. Allison-Ampe
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>	J. Pierce (Chair), L. Heigham, C. Starks
<b>District Accountability/Curriculum, Instruction &amp; Assessment</b>	J. Thielman (Chair), J. Curran, K. Allison-Ampe
<b>Community Relations</b>	C. Starks (Chair), J. Curran, J. Pierce
<b>Executive Subcommittee</b>	J. Curro (Chair), L. Heigham, C. Starks
<b>Legal Services Review Subcommittee</b>	J. Curro (Chair), J. Thielman, J. Pierce
<b><u>COMMITTEE LIAISONS</u></b>	
<b>Permanent Town Building Committee</b>	J. Thielman
<b>Thompson Building Committee</b>	J. Thielman
<b>Selectmen Liaison</b>	J. Curro
<b>Budget &amp; Revenue Task Force</b>	J. Curro, L. Heigham
<b>Five-Year Planning Committee</b>	J. Curro, K. Allison-Ampe
<b>Vision 2020 Standing Committee</b>	C. Starks
<b>Negotiations Committee (AEA &amp; AAA)</b>	J. Curro, L. Heigham, C. Starks
<b>Negotiations Committee (Unit C)</b>	J. Curro, L. Heigham, C. Starks
<b>School Facilities Working Group</b>	J. Thielman

<b>Student Advisory Council</b>	J. Curran
<b>Arlington Youth Health &amp; Safety Coalition</b>	C. Starks
<b>Wellness Committee</b>	K. Allison-Ampe
<b>State Aid Task Force</b>	L. Heigham
<b>Title IX Committee</b>	J. Curran
<b>School Committee Legislative Liaison</b>	J. Curro, J. Pierce
<b>Supt. Diversity Advisory Committee</b>	J. Pierce
<b>AEF Board</b>	K. Allison-Ampe
<b>Townwide PTO</b>	C. Starks
<b>Crosby/Parmenter Committee</b>	J. Curro
<b>Town Government Reorganization Committee</b>	J. Thielman
<b>Tourism and Economic Development Committee</b>	K. Allison-Ampe
<b><u>SCHOOL LIAISONS</u></b>	
<b>Brackett</b>	C. Starks
<b>Thompson</b>	J. Pierce
<b>Bishop</b>	K. Allison-Ampe
<b>Hardy</b>	J. Curro
<b>Stratton</b>	J. Thielman
<b>Dallin</b>	J. Curran
<b>Peirce</b>	L. Heigham
<b>OMS</b>	J. Thielman, J. Curran
<b>AHS</b>	J. Pierce, K. Allison-Ampe

*Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee does hereby create a temporary Executive Subcommittee, as allowed by File BDE, for the purposes of making recommendations around School Committee governance issues and other matters as appropriate, seconded by Ms. Starks. Voted: 7-0*

*Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee does hereby create a temporary Legal Services Review Subcommittee, as allowed by File BDE, for the purposes of examining the potential renewal of retainer agreements for legal representation and/or the solicitation of alternate proposals; drafting recommendations around the Town Government Reorganization Committee's work in this regard; documenting legal needs around special education disputes; and performing other work as appropriate, seconded by Ms. Starks.  
Voted: 7-0*

*Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee does direct the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to review File BDEA and propose: revisions to the list of standing subcommittees; definitions of roles and responsibilities for specific subcommittees and school liaisons, seconded by Ms. Starks.  
Voted: 7-0*

*Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee does accept the proposed subcommittee and liaison appointments, seconded by Ms. Starks.  
Voted: 7-0*

#### ***Appointment to Human Rights Commission***

*Mr. Curro stated that Mr. Judson Pierce resigned his position to the Human Rights Commission because this is required when he was elected to the Arlington School Committee; therefore Mr. Curro is proposing Ms. Sujana Talukdar to this position.*

*Ms. Heigham moved that the School Committee appoint Ms. Sujana Talukdar to the Human Rights Commission, seconded by Ms. Starks.*

***Voted: 7-0***

***Budget Update***

*Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson had meet with the Finance Committee twice over the past few weeks regarding the current FY 10 budget and FY 11. After the April 13, 2010 meeting, Dr. Bodie had said that the Finance Committee had requested a motion from the School Committee to inform the Finance Committee their intend to use the requested \$550,000 from the Revolving Fund Transfer.*

***Ms. Starks moved that the School Committee request \$300,000 Transfer to our Special Education Revolving Account immediately for fiscal year 2010, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

*After it was determined that this amount would not cover the short fall and after Ms. Johnson recommending tabling the motion until late June, **Ms. Starks withdrew the motion.***

*After the School Committee members heard the request from the Finance Committee that they want specific proposals for the usage of the \$550,000 the School Committee had requested at the last meeting and after hearing about the short fall for FY 10 and the FY 11 the following motion was made.*

***Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Superintendent to inform the Finance Committee on April 14, 2010 that the Arlington School Committee will use a percentage of the \$550,000 Reserve Funds for our own Reserves for Special Education and a percentage to be used for operating programs to be determined prior to the end of this fiscal year, Mr. Curro suggested "additional budget request funds, not the \$550,000." seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 7-0***

*The discussion continued on where each member would like to see the add backs into the budget and it was clear everyone had various priorities.*

*Ms. Marie Meter and Ms. Juli Brazile are members of the Arlington FY 11 Emergency Fundraising Campaign and would like to run a campaign to fundraise for the FY 11 budget problems. They would like to work with the Arlington Education Foundation and is asking the Arlington School Committee to endorse this program and to put a list of priorities on where the money would go.*

***Ms. Heigham moved to endorse the FY 11 Gap Fund initiative and to work with the full School Committee members by the next regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 7- 0***

***Town Meeting Warrant Article Review for School-Related Matters***

***Ms. Starks tabled ARTICLE 27 HOME RULE LEGISLATION/GROUP INSURANCE COMMISSION, seconded by Mr. Curran.***

***Voted: 7 – 0***

***Mr. Thielman moved to support ARTICLE 64 APPROPRIATION/TAKINGS - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL - DALLIN SCHOOL AREA SIDEWALKS, seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 7-0***

***Mr. Thielman moved to refer ARTICLE 68 APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER TRAFFIC SUPERVISORS to Executive Subcommittee, seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted: 6-1, Mr. Curran voting No***

***Mr. Thielman moved to support TOWN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS and ARTICLE 33 ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATION/CONSOLIDATION OF TOWN AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS and ARTICLE 34 VOTE/CONSOLIDATION OF TOWN AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS, seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 7-0***

*School Committee recommended no vote needed for the following.*

**~CROSBY/PARMENTER SCHOOLS TRANSFER AND DISPOSITION**

ARTICLE 29 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL

~~~~~ ARTICLE 30 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL

~~~~~ ARTICLE 31 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL

~~~~~ ARTICLE 32 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL

*Dr. Bodie recommends to permanently transfer both Crosby and Parmenter to the Arlington Redevelopment Board.*

*Ms. Heigham moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.*

*Voted: 7-0*

*Mr. Thielman moved the Executive Subcommittee to meet and explore alternative options on the following Warrant Articles ARTICLE 29 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL, ARTICLE 30 TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL, ARTICLE 31 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/CROSBY SCHOOL, and ARTICLE 32 DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE/PARMENTER SCHOOL, seconded by Ms. Starks.*

*Voted: 7-0*

**Thompson Building Committee Update**

*Dr. Bodie gave a brief updated on the Thompson Building Committee findings for the Thompson School rebuild and the letter written by Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer to Mr. Kevin Nigro, PMA Consultants, dated March 25, 2010 was presented with data on updated enrollment projections and elementary school capacity analysis.*

**Superintendent's Report**

*Dr. Bodie stated in her report that Principal Skidmore was informed that Arlington High School was selected by Rennie Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Best Teaching practices. Dr. Bodie also informed the committee that Arlington High School was awarded Grant opportunity to host Chinese Exchange Teacher to Teach Mandarin thanks to the efforts of Principal Skidmore, Principal Ruggere, Julie Dunn, Wallis Raemer and Barney Maier. Dr. Bodie congratulated the two high school art students, Autumn and Lillian. Kathy also noted that the MSBA would be assessing all nine schools here in Arlington on April 16 for three day. The Youth risk surveys have been posted on the district website. Kathy stated the Massachusetts was not selected as one of the two states in found 1 to receive the Race To The Top Funding and has been given the opportunity to re-submit their application in round 2. A letter was sent to the Arlington Education Association on May 14 and currently no response was received.*

**Secretary's Report**

*Ms. Starks reported on correspondence received: Newsletters, Human Rights Commission letter, Suburban coalition, correspondence regarding METCO program, Powers & Sullivan March 18, 2010 correspondence, Commonwealth of MA Safe Routes to School Project in Arlington Public Notice, April 1, 2010 Enrollment.*

**Consent Agenda** all items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*\*Approval of Warrant # 10132 dated March 23, 2010 in the amount of \$344,870.60*

*\*Approval of Warrant # 10141 dated April 6, 2010 in the amount of \$309,753.39*

*\*Minutes for Approval: none*

*Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Curran.*

*Voted: 7 – 0*

**Roundtable**

*None*

**Executive Session**

*Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 11:08 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect, collective bargaining may also be conducted, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to exit only to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Thielman.*

*Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Ms. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms Heigham Yes, and*

***Mr. Curro Yes.***

***Voted: 7- 0***

***Adjournment***

***Mr. Curran moved to adjourn at 11:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 7-0***

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Karen Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee/cs*